

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1917,

BY

EDWARD A. B. POOLE,

M.H., M.D., D.P.H.

Taunton :

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Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1917.

To the Chairman and Members of the Taunton Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The Rural District of Taunton has an area of 71,720 acres ; the census population in 1901 was 17,566, and in 1911, 17,834.

There are no cellar dwellings, offensive trades or common lodging-houses in the district.

The quality and quantity of the public water supplies have been well maintained during 1917.

Seven samples of water from wells were taken and sent to the County Laboratory at Weston-super-Mare for bacteriological examination. Four showed evidences of contamination, one showed signs of improvement, and two showed good results.

The number of water supplies and wells cleansed and repaired is 8.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. There is little to add to the remarks in previous reports on this matter. The number of conversions from privies to pail closets is 10, the number repaired 9, and the number cleansed 22.

WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES. These have been inspected and found satisfactory on the whole. The following extracts will serve :

Factory inspections, 5.

Workshop inspections, 43 ; notices, 2.

Workplaces, 2.

Total inspections, 50 ; notices, 2.

Defects found, 0.

Want of cleanliness, 2 ; remedied, 2.

Requirements for bakehouse, 2 ; remedied, 2.

Total, 6 ; remedied, 6.

Home work—Outworkers' lists (sec. 107).

Wearing apparel : making—Lists, 4.

Outworkers, workmen, 270.

Outworkers in unwholesome premises—Instances, 9 ; notices served, 9 ; remedied, 9.

Outwork in infected premises, 2.

Furniture and upholstery—Lists, 4 ; workmen, 12.

Total—Lists, 16 ; workmen, 282.

Registered workshops :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	26
Workshops	..	..	..	..	123
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	5

Total	..	..	..		154

Under Part V. the report is *nil*.

All the registered cow-keepers' premises have been inspected. Whilst many cows and sheds are not kept sufficiently clean, improvements in the sheds are being made, several new floors are in hand.

All the slaughter-houses were inspected. At these inspections the carcasses of the slaughtered animals were examined, and invariably found to be of good quality and free from evidence of Tuberculosis.

HOUSING. No new houses were erected during 1917, and there is no evidence of a shortage of houses in any part of the district.

Number of Houses inspected	..	..	76
Without Recorded Defects	..	..	0
Defective, but not unfit	..	..	76
Unfit for Habitation	..	..	0
Unfit Houses remedied without Closing Orders	..	..	0
Closing Orders made	..	..	0
Remainder	..	..	0
Defective, but not unfit—No. Inspected	..	..	76
Number with Defects remedied	..	..	71
Number on hand at end of 1917	..	..	5
Number of Representations	..	..	0

Two houses were voluntarily closed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Diphtheria again showed a decrease on the previous two years ; there were 10 cases in 1917 as against 17 in 1916 and 44 in 1915.

The cases occurred as follows :—

- 3 in January from Bishop's Lydeard.
- 1 in March from West Monkton.
- 2 in April from Trull and St. James' Without.
- 2 in May from Bishop's Hull and Stoke St. Gregory.
- 2 in October from Trull and Thurlbeare.

One case from West Monkton, aged 6 years, ended fatally.

The age groups were :—

- Under 5 years of age, 1.
- Under 15 years of age, 2.
- Under 25 years of age, 4.
- Under 45 years of age, 3.

Erysipelas. There were 6 cases, 4 from the North Curry District and 2 from Bishop's Lydeard District.

The age groups were :—

- 2 under 45 years of age.
- 2 under 65 years of age.
- 2 over 65 years of age.

Typhoid. There were 6 cases, 5 of which came from the Bishop's Lydeard District, and 1 from North Curry, which ended fatally.

Four were under 25 years of age and 2 under 45.

Scarlet Fever. Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, grouped as follows :—

- 4 over 1 and under 5 years of age.
- 6 over 5 and under 15 years of age.
- 2 over 15 and under 25 years of age.

Distributed as below :—

- 5 from Bishop's Lydeard District.
- 4 from North Curry District.
- 1 from Taunton District.
- 2 from Pitminster District.

The cases occurred as follows :—

One case in January, February and April ; 2 cases in May and June ; 1 case in July and September ; and 3 cases in November.

None ended fatally.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified from Bishop's Lydeard District, and was under the care of a doctor.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was notified from Pitminster District. The patient was removed to Hospital and recovered.

There were 33 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, 21 females and 12 males.

The age groups are :—

Over 15 and under 25, 9 females and 4 males.

Over 25 and under 45, 10 females and 4 males.

Over 45 and under 65, 2 females and 4 males.

The distribution is as follows :—

Taunton Without District, 6 males and 6 females.

North Curry District, 3 males and 8 females.

Bishop's Lydeard District, 3 males and 5 females.

Pitminster District, 1 male and 2 females.

There were 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, both under 25.

Measles. 47 cases were notified, 25 were German Measles and 22 Measles. They occurred—1 case in January and February, 6 in March, 11 in April, 18 in May, 3 in June, 1 in July and August, 2 in September, 1 in October, and 2 in November.

North Curry District had 32.

Pitminster District had 9.

Bishop's Lydeard District had 5.

Taunton District had 1.

Four cases were notified by parents and 43 by doctors, and the age groups are :—

Over 15 and under 25, 43.

Over 25 and under 45, 4.

Twenty-four were males and 23 females.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. 239 notifications were received, 121 males and 118 females. 125 notifications were sent by doctors, 112 by midwives, and 2 by parents. There were 7 twins and 2 still births.

The total uncorrected number of births registered was 239, 116 males and 123 females. Of this number 11 were illegitimate, 3 males and 8 females.

They were distributed as follows :—

Bishop's Lydeard District, 27 males, 30 females.

Illegitimate, 1 males, 4 females.

North Curry District, 57 males, 54 females.

Illegitimate, 2 males, 4 females.

Pitminster District, 21 males, 28 females.

Taunton District, 9 males, 9 females.

VITAL STATISTICS. The uncorrected number of births was 239, the net number 239, and the rate 14.8.

The total deaths registered in the district was 308, giving a rate of 21.4.

The transferable deaths of non-residents registered in the District were 123, nearly one-half, and the number of residents who died outside the District was 28.

The net number of deaths is 213, giving a net death rate of 14.8.

There were 17 deaths of children under 1 year of age, against 14 last year, and the rate is 71.1 per 1,000.

3 died between 2 and 5 years of age.

9 died between 5 and 15 years of age.

18 died between 15 and 25 years of age.

65 died between 25 and 45 years of age.

77 died between 45 and 65 years of age.

119 died 65 and upwards.

The number of certified deaths was 304, whilst 4 were uncertified. Particulars as to the causes of deaths, usually given in Table III., were :—

Influenza, 5 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 19 ; other Tubercular Diseases, 3 ; Cancer, &c., 17 ; Organic Heart Disease, 28 ; Bronchitis, 19 ; Pneumonia, 14 ; other Respiratory Diseases, 4 ;

Congenital Debility, &c., 9 ; Violence apart from Suicide, 9 ; Suicide, 1 ; other Defined Diseases, 66.

The deaths in institutions for the above entries were—Bronchitis, 9 ; Diphtheria, 4 ; Influenza, 2 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 52 ; other Tubercular Diseases, 1 ; Meningitis, 4 ; Heart Disease, 8.

Infantile Mortality. All causes—Certified, 16 ; Uncertified, 1.

Meningitis, 1 death under 2 weeks.

Gastritis, 1 death under 3 months.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis, 5 deaths.

One at 11 months, 2 at 10 months, 2 at 9 months.

Enteritis, 1 death at 2 months.

Premature Birth—8 deaths, 5 under 1 week, 2 under 4 weeks, 1 under 3 months.

Accident, 1 at 12 months.

The usual list of Sanitary Work, &c., is as follows :—

Inspections and Re-inspections of Premises	..	..	306
Notices—Informal	..	..	61
Notices—Statutory	..	..	5
Insanitary Premises Cleansed	..	..	28
Defective Closets Cleansed and Repaired	..	..	15
New Pail Closets Erected	..	..	6
Roofs Repaired	..	..	5
Offensive Accumulations Removed	..	..	4
Drains Repaired	..	..	3
Infected Premises Disinfected	..	..	27
Infected Shelters Disinfected	..	..	3
Wells Cleansed, &c.	..	..	4
Slaughter-houses Visited	..	..	21
Slaughter-houses Cleansed	4
Bakehouses Visited	17
Bakehouses Cleansed	2

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